

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00

DPW-01 L-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /066 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5427

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2129

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, VN, AS

SUBJECT: LEADER OF GOA OPPOSITION VIEWS ON INDOCHINA

1. AT HIS SUGGESTION, MALCOLM FRASER (NEWLY APPOINTED LEADER OF OPPOSITION) BREAKFASTED WITH ME AT RESIDENCE APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA AND US REACTIONS. I GAVE FRASER OUR LATEST ASSESSMENTS.

2. FRASER OPENED BY SAYING THAT DURING HIS MAIDEN SPEECH APRIL 8 AS LEADER OF OPPOSITION HE WOULD URGE THAT AUSTRALIA AND OTHER NATIONS DO FAR MORE IN ASSISTING IN HUMANITARIAN WORK IN SOUTH VIETNAM (INCLUDING RECEIVING THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN AUSTRALIA) AND THAT SOME INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE SUCH AS UN OR INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS BE ESTABLISHED IN SOUTH VIETNAM TO CARRY OUT RELIEF WORK IN ALL STRICKEN AREAS. HE RECOGNIZED THAT HANOI WOULD PROBABLY FIND WAYS OF REJECTING THESE PROPOSALS, BUT THAT IF ENOUGH VOICES WERE RAISED AROUND THE WORLD IT MIGHT BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO DO SO. HE ALSO FELT THAT SOME INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE MIGHT HELP
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INHIBIT NORTH VIETNAM FROM CARRYING OUT ANTICIPATED BLOODY

RETALIATIONS IN AREAS OVERRUN BY THE COMMUNISTS.

3. FRASER LOOKS FORWARD TO RECEIVING FIRSTHAND REPORTS FROM OPPOSITION ASSOCIATES (MESSRS. PEACOCK, SINCLAIR AND SULLIVAN) WHO ARE RETURNING TODAY FROM PHNOM PENH AND SAIGON. HE INDICATED THAT HIS PARTY'S POSITION IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE WOULD REFLECT THEIR REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE FRASER MADE EFFORT TO REFRAIN FROM PARTISAN POLICIES, HIS REMARKS REFLECTED STRONG CRITICISM OF GOA FOR INATTENTION TO AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSES IN THE FACE OF MOUNTING DANGERS, MOST RECENTLY FROM AUSTRALIA'S NEAR NORTH -- SEA.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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